

Ethio-KW Volunteer's Corner



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New Board Members Appointed

The Ethiopian Association of KW and Surrounding Areas held its annual general meeting on November 20, 2021, in person. Members gathered to discuss community updates, release the existing board and appoint new board members. We thank all the previous board members for their leadership and service to the community. Nine individuals were nominated, and members voted unanimously to appoint them as board members.

The new board will meet this month to discuss primary roles and responsibilities, understand the mission, and specific needs of the association, and develop plans to build on past successes to support

members, foster belonging, and strengthen connections.

Chair:

Denny Aschenaki

Vice Chair:

Zerihun Addisu

Treasurer & Secretary:

Admas Mekuria

Fundraising:

Dawit Debssou

Communications:

Elam Hailu

Membership:

Eyob Tekle

Programs & Events:

Bethlehem Daniel

Partnerships:

Hiyab Tafere

Outreach:

Zinash Admasu

Message from the Chair



I am excited to continue serving a second term on the Board. For those who do not know me, my name is Denny (Denekew) Aschenaki. I was born and raised in Addis and I have been living in KW for 25 years. I am a social worker by profession, I love helping families. Outside of work, I play and coach soccer. I find soccer is a beautiful way to exercise but also a way to build a bridge to others. I have been a soccer coach with Kitchener Soccer Club and the Ethiopian Community helping children improve their soccer skills. I have also volunteered with the YMCA as a host parent for newcomers and refugees o the region.

The vision I have for the community is to see young Ethiopians celebrate their heritage and promote diversity in our region and beyond. I look forward to working with the new board members.

Our Community – Perspectives

By Bethlehem (Betty) Daniel

“Life’s most important and urgent question is, ‘what are you doing for others?’”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Here in the west, December is recognized as a giving month! People exchange gifts and make donations for various reasons: helping those in need, making a difference, or simply acting kindly. Charity organizations state that December is the month that most fundraising occurs.

For us with Ethiopian roots, this year is different. Our country has been in a war for a year, and in recent months the conflict has escalated. As a result, reports say millions of Ethiopians are internally displaced, hundreds of thousands have lost their lives, many are facing a risk of starvation, infrastructures are destroyed, and the economy is significantly impacted with reported inflation of 34% in October.

So this holiday season, we urge members of our community to give generously to Ethiopia. How can you help?

1. **Donate:** choose an established organization that is working directly with those affected on the ground.



Eyezon (<https://eyezonethiopia.com>) is one central donation platform that is set up by the Ethiopian Diaspora Agency. There is an option to donate to internally displaced people on their website. Please visit their website to learn more.

Ethio-Canadian Network for Advocacy and Support, ECNAS (<https://ecnas.ca>) is another way to donate. There is Emergency Fund donation option on their website.

If you make donations, please send us an email with your confirmation so we can share on the next issue of our newsletter how Ethio KW is helping collectively.

2. **Fundraise:** let others join your efforts to help.
3. **Advocate:** learn and voice your support. Show solidarity for Ethiopia and and Ethiopians.

Activities Last Month

1



Annual General Meeting

AGM was held November 20, 2021 in person. Over 40 members attended.

2



Shout Out to Emanuel!

We would like to express a big congratulations to Emanuel Liyaw for winning a 4 year basketball scholarship. He will be attending National Christian Academy.

Upcoming Events



Ethiopian Association
of K-W & Surrounding Area
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በካ.ቸነር ዋተርሎና አካባቢው

Board Meetings

Bi-weekly starting

January 9, 2022

2:00 to 4:00 pm

Volunteer's
Social Event
Dec. 19, 2021

3



Soccer Stars in New Jersey

The Kitchener Waterloo Abyssinia Soccer (KWAS) team received their new soccer jersey. We would like to extend our appreciation to Muya Ethiopian Restaurant and Yared Genme for sponsoring the team and our community.

4



Yegena Chewata (የገና ጫዋታ) Planning

Planning is underway in partnership with the Mill Courtland Community Centre to hold a children event. Stay tuned for registration information on the EthioGroup KW Viber page.

Proposed Events 2022

January 8, 2022

Children's Hockey (Ye'Gena Chewata)

February 21, 2022

Family Day Celebration

March 5, 2022

Adwa Victory 126th Anniversary

Spring 2022

Habesha Conference

Summer 2022

Soccer, Basketball, Walk/Run, Family

Camping Trip

September 10, 2022

Ethiopian New Year

Meet the New Board Members

Meet Zerihun (ዘሪሁን)



Zerihun is a graduate student in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Waterloo. He has been living in Canada since 2017, first in Toronto before moving to the Waterloo region. Before leaving Ethiopia for a scholarship in Japan in 2015, he worked for several capacities of expertise level and in various committees serving Ethiopians in the areas of research, social justice, development, policy, and empowerment. In addition, he is a freelancer in media, contributing articles for a top-ranked award-winning online magazine that focuses exclusively on Black Canadians. His vision for the KW Ethiopian Community is that I hope we will build a vibrant, peaceful, united, and strong community that grows together for generations and becomes a role model to Ethiopians and Ethiopian Canadians.

Meet Admas (አድማስ)

Admas was born and raised in Addis Ababa. She spent her youth life in Athens Greece, her twenties in Germany and moved to Canada in 2013. She lives in Kitchener and is married with two young boys. Her hobbies are watching movies, walking in the park and socializing.

Admas started volunteering with the KW Ethiopian Community Association 6 months ago. Kindness and uplifting others are the values she tries to practice every day. She is passionate about giving back to her community and help bring positive changes. She currently works as an Accountant for the YMCA GTA.



Meet Dawit (ዳዊት)



Dawit was born and raised in Kitchener and recently moved back to the city from Toronto. He is excited to be involved with the Ethiopian Association and is the Chair of the Fundraising Committee. Dawit is particularly interested in working with members of the community on developing youth mentorship programs.

Dawit enjoys travelling and learning about different cultures. His favorite trip so far was to the holy city of Lalibela in Ethiopia where he saw the rock-cut monolithic churches.

Dawit is a lawyer and practices civil and commercial litigation. In his free time, Dawit enjoys hiking, cooking, and cheering for the Toronto Raptors.

Meet the New Board Members Cont'd

Meet Elam (ኤላም)

Elam is a student at the University of Waterloo majoring in Social Development Studies while minoring in Digital Arts Communications.

She has been living in the region of KW for about two years. She is new to the Ethiopian Association. She hopes to strengthen the community through providing better resources and programs, attract and welcome new members, and build better bonds between the members of the Ethiopian Association.



Meet Eyob (አዮብ)

Eyob has been living in Kitchener Waterloo for almost four years. Prior to that he lived in South Africa. He has been serving the community through a sports team called KW Abyssinia Soccer Team, as a captain with fellow teammates.

His vision for the Ethiopian Community Association is to bring the young Ethiopian adults that reside in KW and its surrounding area and help them learn from one another and be a role model for the young generation that is coming up, with the help of God and the help of community members.



Meet Hiyab (ካያብ)

Hiyab has been living in the Waterloo Region since she moved here in 2017 to begin her post-secondary studies at the University of Waterloo. Since then, she has completed a degree in Psychology and in Social Work and she is currently working in community outreach at Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region.

She became involved with the Ethiopian Association more formally this year and she hopes to get to know our large community and understand the diverse needs and identities within the community and work to make the efforts and goals of the association reflective of the diverse needs of all those who identify as Ethiopian.



Meet the New Board Members, Cont'd

Meet Betty (ቤቲ)

ቤቲ ለ KW ኢትዮጵያ ማህበረሰብ የበጎ ፍቃድ አገልግሎት መስጠት ከጀመረች 6 ወራት ሆኗታል። የኢትዮጵያ አዲስ ዓመት ዝግጅት አዘጋጅ ኮሚቴ አካል በመሆን አገልግላለች።

ቤቲ ስለ ማህበረሰብ፣ ባህል እና አብሮነትን መንከባከብ ትወዳለች። ችሎታዋን እና ልምዷን በመጠቀም ማህበረሰቡን በአመራር ፣ በአደረጃጀት እና በፕሮግራም ልማት የበለጠ ውጤታማ እንዲሆን ለመርዳት ፣ ያሉትን ሀሳቦች እና በጎ ፈቃደኞች በተሳካ ሁኔታ ለመጠቀም ፍላጎት አላት።

ቤቲ በምህንድስና እና በፕሮጀክት አስተዳደር ልምድ አላት። እሷ ከባለቤቷ እና ከሶስት ትናንሽ ልጆቿ ጋር በዋተርሎ ይኖራሉ። በአልበርታ ይኖሩ ነበር። ቤቲ ተወልዳ ያደገችው አዲስ አበባ ነው። በትርፍ ጊዜዋ ማንበብ፣ የእግር ጉዞ ማድረግ፣ በጎ ፈቃደኝነት እና የባህል ቦታዎችን መጎብኘት ትወዳለች።



Meet Zinash (ዝናሽ)



ዚናሽ በካናዳ ለ 3 ዓመታት ኖራለች። ከኢትዮጵያ ከወጣች 7/8 አመት ሆኗታል።

ዝናሽ ከኮተቤ መምህራን ኮሌጅ ዲፕሎማ አላት። እሷም የ 3 ዓመታት የስፖርት ሳይንስ ስልጠና አላት. ስፖርትን፣ ሙዚቃን እና ስነ ጥበባትን ታስተምራለች። ኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ የኢትዮጵያ እግር ኳስ ፌዴሬሽን ዳኛ ነበረች።

2 ልጆች አሏት (አንድ ወንድ እና አንዲት ሴት)። የኢትዮጵያን ባህልና ታሪክ ታደንቃለች። የእሷ ዝንባሌ ስፖርት፣ ሙዚቃ፣ ጥበብ እና እጭታን መንከባከብን ያካትታሉ።

Merry Christmas to those that celebrate!

Contact Us via Email

Get in touch

EthioKWVolunteers@gmail.com

If you have a story to share, we would love to hear from you!

የምታካፍሉት ታሪክ ካላችሁ ብንሰማ ደስ ይለናል! ላኩልን!